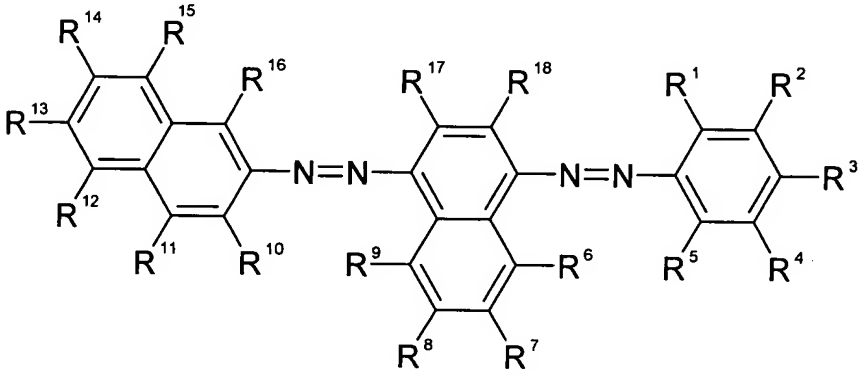
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing.

1. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension, comprising at least one gas black, an azo compound of formula 1,



(1)

wherein R^1 - R^{18} may be identical or different and are members selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups, acceptor or donor substituents or portions of aliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic, acyclic, cyclic or multiple cyclic systems with acceptor, donor, hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups,

and water.

2. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black has a volatile matter content (950°C) of < 21 % by weight, a BET surface area of 80 to 350 m^2/g, a primary particle size of 8 to 40 nm and a DBP number of 40 to 200 ml/100 g.

3. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black is present in an amount of < 30 % by weight.

4. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 is present in an amount of < 5 % by weight.

5. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 contains less than 30 % by weight contamination.

6. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 contains less than 10 % by weight salt.

7. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension comprising at least one gas black, water and an azo compound which is a member selected from the group consisting of:

2-[[4-[(1-hydroxy-6-phenylamino-3-sulpho-naphthalen-2-yl)azo]-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-5-methyl-benzene-1,4-disulphonic acid,

5-[4-(4-(7-[[2-ethoxy-4-(4-methyl-2-sulpho-phenylazo)-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-8-hydroxy-3,6-disulpho-naphthalen-1-ylamino)-6-phenylsulphanyl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-ylamino]-phenylazo]-2-hydroxy-benzoic acid and

tetrasodium-6-amino-4-hydroxy-3-[[7-sulphonato-4-[(4-sulphonatophenyl)azo]-1-naphth-1-yl]azo]naphthalene-2,7-disulphonate and at least one of a biocide, a wetting agent or an additive, wherein the wetting agent is present ~~between 0 and~~ from 0 to 1% by weight.

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the azo compound contains less than 30 % by weight contamination and less than 10 % by weight salt.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the wetting agent is a member selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol ethoxylate, polyacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid derivatives, copolymer containing acrylic acid, acrylic acid derivatives, styrenes, styrene derivatives, polyethers, lignin sulphonate, alkyl

benzene sulphonate, naphthalene sulphonic acid derivative, copolymer containing maleic acid anhydride maleic acid derivatives and mixtures thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the additive is an alcohol, glycol, glycol ether, heterocycle or glycerol.

13. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the additive is present in an amount of < 30 % by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, which is free from wetting agent, the azo compound of general formula I is ~~between~~from 0.1 [[and]]to 1 % by weight and where the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension has a salt content of less than 2500 ppm.

15. (Previously Presented) A process for producing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, comprising dispersing the gas black and the azo compound of formula 1 in water.

16. (Previously Presented) The process for producing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 15, wherein the dispersing is carried out in a bead mill, ultrasound equipment, high-pressure homogenizer, microfluidiser, or high shear mixer.

17. (Previously Presented) A process for making a composition of matter comprising mixing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7 into inks, ink jet inks, paints, printing inks, latices, textiles, leather, adhesives, silicones, plastics materials, concrete or construction materials.

18. (Previously Presented) An ink composition comprising a vehicle and the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7.

19. (Currently Amended) The ink according to claim 18, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 is ~~between~~from 0.01 [[and]]to 0.5 % by weight.

20. (Previously Presented) The ink according to claim 18, which is free from wetting agent, the azo compound is present in an amount of 0.01 to 0.5 % by weight and the ink has a salt content of less than 250 ppm.

21. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the amount of the wetting agent is from 0 to 0.4% by weight.

22. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, which further contains a wetting agent in the amount of up to 0.4% by weight relative to the total weight of the suspension.